

## REMARKS

Applicant requests an indication that the certified copy of the Japanese priority document, which was submitted on November 3, 2003, has been received.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application, with Claim 1, 8, 11 and 14 being independent.

Claims 1, 8 and 11-14 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been amended to recite a program stored on a computer-readable medium. Applicant submits that these claims are directed to statutory subject matter and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,493,462 to Inoue in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,155,051 to Murakawa. Claims 3, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Murakawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,835 to Inoue2. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of converting a color space of an image that is an input-output target of an image input-output device into a common color space used in operating software of a host computer, and converting a resolution of the image into a common resolution. With these features, since an image is converted to a common color space and a common resolution, color matching and a determination of similarity with a particular image can be performed in a color space of a host computer operating system. This allows an image processing system to efficiently perform anti-counterfeiting processing for images input from or output to different kinds of input/output devices without device-specific processing. In addition, it is not necessary to provide the system with a new (dedicated) device-specific color matching module for making a counterfeiting decision, which can reduce the cost. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features of the present invention.

USP6493462 discloses an image processing device which determines whether or not to prohibit copying based on RGB brightness histograms of a scanned image. In particular, that patent discloses that the system converts the RGB signals acquired by reading an original copy into signals of XYZ color coordinates and makes a histogram of the Y signal. However, that patent does not disclose that the decision of whether a particular image exists is performed at the host computer OS. Moreover, the feature of converting a color space of an image into a common color space used in the host computer operating software is not disclosed or suggested.

USP7155051 fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies. That patent discloses an image recognition apparatus which detects a specific pattern from a binarized image converted from an input multi-level color image. That patent also discloses that the apparatus converts the input multi-level image into a low-resolution multi-color image, and binarizes the low-resolution

multi-color image. Control unit 1 performs an image recognition processing (Fig. 1). However, it is not disclosed that the control unit 1 comprises its own OS, or that the image recognition processing is performed at a host computer OS. Moreover, there is no disclosure of converting a color space of an image into a common color space used by the host computer operating software.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. The other independent claims recite features similar to those of Claim 1 and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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